

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

/068 W

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R 251420Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0350

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USUN NEW YORK 0270

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0354

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REFTEL B TO READ (B) BRIDGETOWN
0355 VICE STATE 0355

E.O. 11652: GDS (IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE)

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US, GJ

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INTERESTS
AND OBJECTIVES OF GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA

REF: (A) STATE 027591 (B) BRIDGETOWN 0355

1. GRENADA, WHICH HAS BEEN INDEPENDENT FOR ONLY TWO YEARS,
HAS NOT PLAYED A ROLE OF ANY CONSEQUENCE IN EITHER UN OR
OAS SO FAR AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO DO SO IN FUTURE. IN
MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, AS INDEED, IN MOST OF ITS ACTIVITIES,
GOG FOLLOWS NO READILY DISCERNIBLE POLICY. ALL IMPORTANT
GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS ARE MADE BY THE COUNTRY'S ERRATIC,
ILL-INFORMED, SELF-SEEKING AND REPORTEDLY CORRUPT PRIME
MINISTER, ERIC M. GAIRY; THE OFFICIALS WHO CARRY THEM OUT
ARE CHOSEN LARGELY ON THE BASIS OF THEIR LOYALTY TO GAIRY
AND RARELY REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR ANY TIME. (WITHIN LAST
18 MONTHS, AT LEAST FOUR OFFICIALS HAVE HELD THE NUMBER
TWO JOB IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; GAIRY HIMSELF IS MINISTER
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OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.) INsofar AS MULTILATERAL ISSUES ARE

CONCERNED, AS OFTEN AS NOT, GAIRY MAKES NO DECISION AT ALL AND THE GOG SEAT IN THE UN OR OAS IS UNOCCUPIED WHEN THE VOTE IS TAKEN. WE KNOW OF NO PRESENT PLANS BY THE GOG TO SEEK ELECTION TO ANY MULTILATERAL BODY OR TO ADVANCE THE CANDIDACY OF ANY GRENADIAN FOR A HIGH-LEVEL POSITION IN ANY MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION.

2. AT UN, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, BARBADIAN DELEGATION HAS MORE THAN ONCE INFLUENCED GRENADIAN VOTE ON A SPECIFIC ISSUE. THIS, HOWEVER, WAS WHEN WALDRON-RAMSAY WAS BARBADIAN PERM REP, AND WE CANNOT SAY WHETHER HIS SUCCESSOR IS INTERESTED IN EXERCISING SIMILAR INFLUENCE OR WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO IF HE WERE. AS NOTED ABOVE, GAIRY MAKES ALL MAJOR DECISIONS, AND MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN HIS MIND IS WHAT'S IN IT FOR GRENADA AND HIMSELF. HE HAS ADMITTED TO AMBASSADOR THAT SYRIA BOUGHT (FOR AN UNDISCLOSED SUM) HIS COUNTRY'S VOTE ON RESOLUTIBN EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM.

3. INCOMPETENCE OF GOG OFFICIALS, LACK OF ANY BUT MOST RUDIMENTARY FOREIGN RELATIONS OFFICE, AND GAIRY'S INSISTENCE ON KEEPING ALL THE REINS IN HIS OWN HANDS AND HIS IGNORANCE OF ISSUES PRECLUDE ADQUATE INSTRUCTIONS TO GRENADIAN DELEGATES TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. PRIME MINISTER'S CONTROL OVER DELEGATES WHILE MEETINGS ARE INPROGRESS IS COMPLETE, SINCE THEIR JOBS ARE AT STAKE, BUT THE END RESULT OFTEN IS THAT, BEING UNABLE TO GET TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS AND NOT DARING TO USE THEIR OWN JUDGEMENT, THEY SIMPLY ABSENT THEMSELVES.

4. GAIRY IS THE SOURCE OF ALL POLITICAL POWER AND PATRONAGE IN GRENADA. MOREOVER, ANY OFFICIAL FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT POWER BASE WOULD VERY SHORTLY FIND HIMSELF OUT OF A JOB.

5. IT IS PROBABLY USELESS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO GOG AT A LOWER LEVEL THAN GAIRY, THOUGH EMBASSY HAS OCCASIONALLY TRIED TO DO SO. AMBASSADOR HAS HIMSELF APPEALED TO GAIRY FOR SUPPORT ON TWO OR THREE ISSUES AND SUPPORT WAS, IN FACT, GIVEN. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY BITTER OVER WHAT HE SEES AS UNWILLINGNESS OF US
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TO PROVIDE AID TO HIS COUNTRY, AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO WIN HIS VOTE FOR OUR POSITION IN FUTURE. GOG HAS NOT SOLICITED USG SUPPORT ON ANY MULTILATERAL ISSUE OR FOR GRENADIAN CANDIACIES FOR POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRIDGE00354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760072-0883
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760216/aaaaanilh.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 27591, 76 BRIDGETOWN 355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES OF GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US, GJ, BB, UN, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006